

FREE COINAGE OF SILVER.

A Democratic Congressman-Elect Expresses Some Emphatic Views.

Says it is a Ruinous Policy.

Michael D. Harter, Democratic member-elect for Congress from the Fifteenth Ohio District, was interviewed the other day by the Canton News-Democrat on the silver question. In reply to the reporter's question as to what he thought of the free coinage bill passed by the Senate, Mr. Harter said: "I think it would be a very unfortunate thing for the country should the bill become a law."

When asked if such a law would not increase the circulation and make money plentier and cheaper Mr. Harter said: "On the contrary, it would cause immediate and violent contraction. The effect of free coinage would be to drive out of circulation six hundred million dollars of gold, and it would mean a general bankruptcy, compared with which 1857 and 1873 were years of prosperity."

Reporter—How would this contraction be brought about.

Mr. Harter—The actual value of gold in every legal tender gold dollar being at least 25 per cent more than the silver in the legal tender silver dollar, each man, woman and child in America would save every dollar they could of it and gold would cease to be money and become merchandise; and there is something like 600 millions of gold now in circulation the withdrawal of it would contract the current money of the United States over one-third. You remember that resumption of coin payments ten or eleven years ago produced prosperous times, and blessed every class of people, this was due to the enormous additions to the circulating money of the country caused by the return of every dollar of gold and silver, which for years had been only an article of merchandise, so far as the United States was concerned. Free coinage of silver would only reverse the work of resumption and bring in its train scarcity of money, financial distress, high rates of interest, want of employment, in fact a large share of the evils Pandora's box was said to contain.

Reporter—Will free silver coinage do nobody good?

Mr. Harter—Certainly it will. Every owner of silver bullion, worth say 75 cents, will wake up and find he can pay 100 cents of debt with it; but as there are at least 999 men, perhaps 9,999 men, in the United States who neither mine or own an ounce of silver bullion, where there is one man who does, it looks like the worst form of class legislation to burden them in order to give great profits and unreasonable advantage to the very few. If the Government intends to go into the business of giving 100 cents of the people's earnings and savings for 75 cents, it seems to me that it had better pay the farmers 120 cents for each bushel of 90-cent wheat they haul to market. The money lost by the whole people would then be distributed among a multitude of our fellow citizens instead of going to a mere handful of lucky silver mining nabobs and fortunate speculators in bullion. Understand me, I have no criticisms to make or fault to find with silver mine owners. I wish I owned a silver mine or two myself, and consider it a very respectable calling, a very enjoyable occupation indeed, but I see no reason why the already fortunate should ask to have calamity brought upon others for their benefit. Besides this you must remember that the Senate bill proposes to pay out 100 cents of the people's money to any inhabitant of Europe, Asia or Africa who is willing to give us 75 cents in return. A marvelous financial policy, is it not?

Reporter—What do you think would be the party result if the Democratic party were to adopt the idea of free coinage?

Mr. Harter—If we were unfortunate and unwise enough to make it a party question and favor the coinage of seventy-five cents worth of silver into a legal tender silver dollar (the profit going to the owner of the silver as it does under free coinage) I believe we would lose New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, and that it would prevent us carrying Massachusetts, New Hampshire and six or eight other now doubtful States, all of which we can carry if we nominate a great party leader and steer clear of this free silver craze. The adoption of this wild idea would not bring into the Democratic column a solitary State in the Union. It will be political suicide, and we might as well make an assignment as a party and

have a receiver appointed. If the people get a chance to fix upon the Democratic party the responsibility of a change in the standard of all values, and feel that it as a party is responsible for the disaster and ruin which would follow such legislation, they would soon forget our enormous services in fighting their battles against protective tariff robbery and fairly smother us at the polls. We now have and we deserve the confidence of the people, but if we yield to the temptation so shrewdly placed before us by our Republican opponents, and embrace this new heresy, under the mistaken idea that it is popular, we shall soon see our well-earned laurels snatched from us. In the first place, free coinage is not popular, and if it were it could not remain so, because it is contrary to human experience and in conflict with common sense. Just now, along with some very excellent and honorable men, we find a multitude of paid agents and subsidized writers filling the air with din and noise, but when the intelligent and level-headed voters examine this question, you will find they will spew it out of their mouths, and along with it any party which sustains it. I would like the readers of the News-Democrat, very many of them my old friends and neighbors, to remember that I predict now that if the Democratic party is untrue to its traditions and old-time faith in a sound currency it will march to the rear just as it did when it turned its back on hard money and went a whoring after greenbacks. For years after that the Democratic party eat of the husks and warmed itself with ice, while Republicans enjoyed the corn, wine, and oil, and the same fate is ahead of us if on this silver question if we are untrue to the people. I have no objections to the free coinage of silver if it is not given legal tender qualities, or if we insist that 100 cents worth of silver be put in it, make it a Democratic dollar, an honest coin worthy of a great nation and fit for an enlightened people; but I would rather return to private life at the close of my first term in Congress than vote to cheat and rob the people who have honored me by election, in forcing them to take in return for their labor or property a debased and degraded coin at the demand and under the lash of a public opinion created by an interest whose object is to rob the public in order to fill their private coffers with the plunder. If I am wrong why will they not consent to make their dollar worth a dollar?

Reporter—What do you think ought to be done with the silver question?

Mr. Harter—I believe we had better let the present law alone for a while, and as it now coins a little more silver (perhaps \$5,000,000 per year) than all our mines produce and as all the profits in it now goes to the Government (the whole people) no reasonable complaint can arise, but speaking my mind I would cease to coin light weight dollars and from and after say the end of the fiscal year would aim to put as nearly as possible 100 cents worth of silver into each silver dollar leaving the mints of the United States. I would give an honest dollar to an honest people. I believe that money to a country is what tools are to a mechanic, and I would supply the people of the United States with as good money as any nation on earth has, and it will be very easy to do it. I would preach the doctrine that anything calling itself a dollar, and worth less than one hundred cents in the markets of the world, is a cheat and a swindle, and that the "cheap" dollar is only another cunning device for fertilizing the rich man's field with the poor man's sweat.

I had a slight stroke of paralysis which frightened me very much. My health was poor and the doctors gave me medicine for heart disease, but I grew weaker. My cousin recommended Dr. Bull's Sarsaparilla, which certainly has benefited me greatly, for I feel in splendid health. —Samuel T. Phelan, Dayton, O.

Duty of every kind has in it the elements of pleasure, and, if we do not discover and appropriate them, it is our own fault. If we study the principles of our life-work, dwell upon its details, and strive to perfect it as much as possible, we shall insensibly learn to love it, and to feel no sacrifice for it a burden.

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A live minister and a dead church are hard to keep together.

The man who does all his praying on his knees prays very little.

A man who is mean to his wife is a man the devil is not even watching.

If every dog who barks would bite, the world would soon be full of sore legs.

It is no excuse for a man to drink beer because Christ turned water into wine.

The devil never asks anybody to go further than the next corner to begin with.

A Christian with a long face is one of the best advertisements the devil has on earth.

There are not many poor men who would do a rich man's work for the pay he gets.

If some people would always think twice before they speak, they would keep still a good deal.

The church member who never does anything to help the church or the preacher, is trying to sponge his way to heaven.

The only reason why some folks go to church on Sunday is that they think if they have served the devil faithfully six days in the week, they've done enough.

Answer This Question.

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Edison, in speaking to the employees at the Ogden iron mines, at Dover, N. J., a few days ago, said: "Boys, wait until next winter and we shall have no snow to bother us upon this hill. During the coming year I shall invent electric and sunlight reflectors that will melt the snow as fast as it falls."

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A World's Fair club has been organized in Kingwood, W. Va. The club is limited to twenty-five members and is full. Each member pays 25 cents a week until May, 1893. The accumulated fund will then be used to defray the club's expenses to the fair.

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